

Application No. 09/741,805  
Response Dated June 17, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of March 17, 2005

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a device coupled between a client ~~an~~ and a server, the device having a configuration, the device to receive a content based message via one or more received packets and to process the content based message only if the received packets have one or more fields ~~that match~~ comprising application data, wherein the content of the application data in the one or more fields matches the configuration of the device, the device to forward the processed content based message via one or more packets having one or more fields that are different from the received packets.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the device comprises a device to forward the received packets with the one or more fields and the content based message that are unchanged if the content of the application data in the one or more fields of the received packets do not match the configuration of the device.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the device comprises one or more of a validator, a transformer and a content based switch.

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4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the content of the application data in the one or more fields that match the configuration of the device comprise a destination IP address and destination port number.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a plurality of devices coupled between a client and a server, the devices having a same configuration, the devices to receive a content based message via one or more received packets and to process the content based message only if the received packets have one or more fields that match comprising application data, wherein the content of the application data in the one or more fields matches the configuration of the devices, the devices to forward the received packets with the one or more fields and the message that are unchanged if the one or more fields of the received packets do not match the configuration of the devices, the devices to forward the content based processed message via one or more packets having one or more fields that are different from the received packets.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the plurality of devices comprise a plurality of validators.

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7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein at least one of the validators comprises a validation accelerator to validate XML documents or content based messages.

8. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the plurality of devices comprise a plurality of transformers.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein at least one of the transformers comprises a transformer to transform the content based message from a first format to a second format.

10. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the plurality of devices comprise a plurality of switches.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein at least one of the switches comprises a content based switch to switch the content based message to a selected processing node or server if the content of the content based message matches one or more predetermined patterns or values.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the content based switch comprises a content based switch to switch the content based message to a

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selected processing node or server if business transaction information in the content  
based message matches a predetermined pattern or value.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the content of the  
application data in the one or more fields that match the configuration of the device  
comprise an address.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the content of the  
application data in the one or more fields that match the configuration of the device  
comprise a destination address.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the content of the  
application data in the one or more fields that match the configuration of the device  
comprise a destination address and destination port number.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the content of the  
application data in the one or more fields that match the configuration of the device  
comprise a destination IP address and destination port number.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the content of the  
application data the one or more fields that match the configuration of the device

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comprise a destination IP address and destination port number on which the devices are accepting connection requests.

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a first device having a first configuration;

a second device coupled to the first device, the second device having a second configuration;

the first device to receive a content based message via one or more received packets and to process the content based message only if the received packets have one or more fields comprising application data, wherein the content of the application data in the one or more fields matches that match the configuration of the first device, the first device to forward the received packets to the second device with the one or more fields and the content based message that are unchanged if the content of the application data in the one or more fields of the received packets do not match the first configuration.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 18 ~~and wherein the first device~~ to forward the processed content based message to the second device via one or more packets having one or more fields that match the second configuration.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein each of the first and second devices comprises one or more of a validator, a transformer and a switch.

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21. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

configuring a device;

receiving a content based message at the device via one or more packets;

processing the content based message only if the received packets have one or more fields comprising application data, wherein the content of the application data in the one or more fields matches ~~that match~~ the configuration of the device; and

forwarding the processed content based message via one or more packets having one or more fields that are different from the received packets.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 and further comprising forwarding the received packets with the one or more fields and the content based message that are unchanged if the content in the application data in the one or more fields of the received packets do not match the configuration of the device.

23. The method of claim 21 and further comprising:

generating a response message;

receiving the response message at the device via one or more packets;

processing the response message if the one or more packets of the response message match the configuration of the device.

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24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising a media having instructions thereon, the instructions resulting in the following when executed:

configuring a device;

receiving a content based message at the device via one or more packets;

processing the content based message only if the received packets have one or more fields comprise application data, wherein the content of the application data in the one or more fields matches that match the configuration of the device; and

forwarding the processed content based message via one or more packets having one or more fields that are different from the received packets.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24 and further comprising:  
forwarding the received packets with the one or more fields and the content based message that are unchanged if the one or more fields of the received packets do not match the configuration of the device.